

THE SOUTH'S MOST VALUABLE ASSET

Special Director John A. Fox Talks Interestingly on Water Courses.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 12.—In discussing the question of the "water courses of the South," John A. Fox, special director of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, declared that he knows of no more valuable asset which the South possesses to-day than its waterways.

"It is an asset," he said, "that is worth more to us in the coming era of prosperity than anything else we possess."

He discussed the question from two standpoints: First, as to whether it would pay and, second, as to whether the nation can afford it.

In answering the first question he asserted that experience has shown that such investments pay better than any other undertaken by the government, while he answered the second question by saying that the national government could easily afford the expense.

"If this Southern Commercial Congress," he declared, "shall do no more than secure the early and comprehensive development of this magnificent waterway system, throughout the South, it will have achieved for our Southern States more than has been done in a century to advance their development and promote their welfare."

"The time has come in the South's history when its magnificent system of water courses must be made something more than mere idle channels, if we are to reach our full measure of prosperity. They must be improved and utilized to their fullest capacity and must be made to bear a larger share of our transported products. We have in the Southern States to-day about 5,151 miles of railroad to which have been added the entire question of transportation. If these are not speedily improved, not only by other and additional lines of railroad but also by the utilization of all other routes of transportation, the South will be held in check as by no other means."

"By improving the rivers of the South," he continued, "we can add at once to our transportation routes the equivalent of 12,000 miles of railroad track, because each mile of the 12,000 miles of waterways within our Southern borders can be made the equivalent of a ten-track railroad. The cost of building and equipping 12,000 miles of railroad would with the terminals require at least \$4,500,000,000, and then the charge for transportation would be 1.5 mills per ton per mile, while a canalized and thoroughly improved waterway system would hardly exceed \$15,000,000 and freight could be moved for about 1.5 mills per ton per mile."

Mr. Fox asserted that the expenditure of this money would prove the most lucrative investment ever made by the national government and that it would do more to enrich the South than anything else that could be conceived for her betterment.

Mr. Fox gave many statistics to prove the statement which he advanced that this would be a pay proposition.

He showed, for instance, that in the case of nine Southern harbors where improvements have been made the percentage of increase in commerce at these points during the period from 1890 to 1907 has ranged from sixty-three per cent. in the lowest case to more than twenty-eight hundred per cent. in the highest.

He showed by statistics that \$2,572,128 expended in deepening these nine harbors has resulted in an annual increase of commerce of more than \$1,900,000,000.

Mr. Fox declared that the greatest earning capacity of the water courses is in the normal and judicious regulation of railroad freight rates, the amount of tonnage carried by them being insignificant in the extreme.

DUE AT PANAMA

Citizens Are Preparing Fitting Reception for the Pacific Fleet.

PANAMA, Dec. 12.—The vessels of the Pacific fleet are expected to come into Panama harbor to-night or Sunday morning. The gunboat Yorktown arrived yesterday afternoon. Senator Diaz, the governor of Panama, has issued the following circular to the local societies: "As the day approaches for the arrival of the Pacific squadron of the United States with a force of from 6,000 to 7,000 men, who will come ashore during the time the fleet stays in our waters in groups of 1,000 men every day to visit Panama and the surrounding districts the citizens of this city under the leadership of high political personages, propose to receive them in a befitting manner."

CHILD OF LEPER

There Is No Suspicion to Indicate Presence of the Disease.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—It is stated in the health office to-day that a son was born last Friday to Mrs. Lotta Early, wife of John R. Early, the North Carolina leper. The child, according to the physician of the health department, who attended Mrs. Early, bears every mark of good health and excellent form.

AN EMBEZZLER

Cashier in Dry Goods Store Lost \$20,000 Playing the Ponies.

OAKLAND, CAL., Dec. 12.—Adrien LeBuef, for three years cashier of Hale Brothers dry goods store in this city, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement. He confessed to the police that he had used about \$20,000 of the firm's money during the last four months in gambling, chiefly in poor room betting on horse races.

LeBuef is twenty-five years old, and has a wife and child.

LOOK TO CONSOLIDATION

Syndicate, Headed by Senator Elkins, Acquires Control of Big Bank.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, and a syndicate of local and New York investors have obtained possession of the stock of the American National bank held by Robert N. Harper, the bank's former president.

HEAVY SNOWFALL

Railroads and Municipal Authorities in Canada Are Kept Busy.

MONTREAL, Dec. 12.—Thirty hours' continuous snowfall in Montreal and throughout a large portion of the province of Quebec is giving the railroad and municipal authorities a severe battle to keep open the means of transportation. The Canadian Pacific has half a dozen giant snow plows at work on its lines between Montreal, Smith's Falls and Quebec, and the other railroads are kept equally busy.

In Montreal it is costing the city more than \$1,000 an hour to keep the streets open, without counting the cost to the street railway company. The McGill observatory records a snowfall of over four inches, an unusually heavy one for this season of the year.

DARK AGES

Treatment of Oklahoma Prisoners Is Said to Be Barbarous.

GUTHRIE, OKLA., Dec. 12.—Allegations that modes of punishment belonging to the Dark Ages, such as the "cub," the "war hole," the "dungeon" and other obsolete methods of enforcing discipline prevail in the Kansas State prison at Lansing, are made in the first annual report of Miss Kate Barnard, commissioner of charities and corrections. The report, which was submitted to Governor Charles N. Haskell, recommends that the legislature, as soon as it convenes, memorialize congress to permit Oklahoma prisoners to be sent to the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth and to permit cancellation of the contract with the Kansas institution whereby provisions for care of Oklahoma prisoners are made.

PREPARING FOR HUNT

President's Arms and Ammunition Are Now Being Inspected.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., Dec. 12.—Ammunition to be used by President Roosevelt on his African hunting trip has been prepared here and forwarded to Washington, together with the weapons which the president will use, and which were sent here to be examined by experts.

The ball cartridges are in varying weights, the largest being deemed of the right calibre to bring down a pachyderm.

MAN WAS WOMAN

Undertaker Makes Discovery When Preparing the Body for Burial.

BUTTE, MONT., Dec. 12.—The sudden death yesterday at Manhattan of "Sammy Jones," aged 30, disclosed the fact that instead of being a man, as every one in the vicinity of Manhattan for the past eighteen years had believed him to be, Jones was a woman. This discovery resulted when undertaker Safely, of Bozeman, took charge of the body. She chewed tobacco and drank and associated freely with men.

Sentence Postponed.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Dec. 12.—The pronouncing of sentence upon Abraham Ruef, convicted of bribery, was postponed by Judge Lawler in the superior court to-day until next Saturday, Dec. 19th.

A Peculiar Fire.

DOWAGIAC, MICH., Dec. 12.—A peculiar fire which has been burning for three days in a pile of four thousand tons of soft coal at the big mine plant here of the Backus estate is threatening the factory to-day. The coal pile is 30 to 35 feet deep, is surrounded on three sides by factory walls and is open to the sky. The surrounding walls have

grown so hot to-day that they are likely to collapse.

Gas from the burning coal has overcome a dozen of the men who are fighting the fire. Frequent explosions keep throwing masses of the coal out on the street.

MANAGER FOR CHALONER

Baron Saint Maor, Who Gave Up Title, Is Dead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Baron George de Forest Saint Maor, member of an old French family, who for some years was overlord of John Armstrong Chaloner's country place, Merry Mills, in Virginia, and was secretary to Mme. Calve, the singer, last year, died Thursday in a sanatorium at Verona, N. J.

The baron, who dropped his title in this country, and called himself George de Forest, was in a French cavalry regiment in his youth, and fought in Algiers. He was 51 years old and is survived by his wife and two children.

Tugs Tied Up.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Because the New York Central railroad's marine superintendent refused to relocate a tugboat, it was discharged when it refused to work an hour overtime last night without pay, the twenty-three tugs of the company did not move to-day.

The crews of all these craft, which handle the company's boats on East and North rivers, and on the harbor, refused to begin work this morning, and added a further demand that they be paid twice a month instead of monthly, as heretofore.

Two hundred men took part in the strike.

CHAIRMAN IS HOSTILE.

Delegates Have Little Hope that Bill Will Pass.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] RALPHIGH, N. C., December 12.—North Carolina State Forester W. W. Ashe is just back from Washington, where he attended the hearing on the Antislavery forest preserve bill before the congressional committee on the Interior. He says he found Chairman Scott of the committee decidedly hostile to the bill, and has no hope for its passage at all.

The trend of opposition outlined by Chairman Scott was that the States should first take some joint action with the owners of timber and agricultural lands for the conservation of the forests and for the prevention of destructive forest fires. Then the government should not take the initiative. He and the committee took the ground that much of the present loss of soil and the sentiment that impedes reforestation in the streams is from farm lands and not from the forest destruction by timbermen. Chairman Scott and several of the committee were that from a personal investigation in the Southern Appalachian system, and were well-armed with facts and figures as to conditions.

Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, December 12.—The statement of clearing house banks for the week shows that the banks held \$16,839,625 more than the requirements of the 25 per cent. reserve rule. This is a record.

Proportionate cash reserve as compared with last week. The statement follows:

Loans—\$9,400,000; deposits, \$1,408,597,000; decrease, \$15,534,600.

Circulation, \$46,439,000; increase, \$23,200.

Legal tenders, \$70,082,300; decrease, \$115,800.

Specie, \$288,966,800; decrease, \$6,740,000.

Reserve, \$369,049,100; decrease, \$7,155,800.

Reserve required, \$332,149,470; decrease, \$2,883,650.

Surplus, \$18,899,625; decrease, \$2,272,150.

Ex-United States deposits, \$15,199,800; decrease, \$5,171,900.

The actual percentage of the clearing house banks to-day was 26.21.

The statement of banks and trust companies of Greater New York not reporting to the clearing house shows that local institutions have aggregate deposits of \$1,123,053,300; total cash on hand, \$198,122,800, and loans amounting to \$1,029,870,500.

As there is always a big rush of orders with this firm every season, now is the time for you to get in yours for orchids, violets, American Beauty roses, lilies of the valley and lilies. Take no chances and do not get left by waiting. Get in your orders now and then be sure that your selections will not fail to reach the happy ones Christmas.

Many Pretty Flowers for Christmas Sales.

Fine flowers and plants appeal to the artistic in every one at any season of the year, but especially at Christmas when all outdoors is cold and cheerless. Fully appreciating this fact Ratcliffe & Tanner, the South's most finest collection and assortment of plants and cut flowers ever offered here for the merry Yuletide.

Among the Christmas offerings will be many new plants and flowers not sold here before.

As there is always a big rush of orders with this firm every season, now is the time for you to get in yours for orchids, violets, American Beauty roses, lilies of the valley and lilies. Take no chances and do not get left by waiting. Get in your orders now and then be sure that your selections will not fail to reach the happy ones Christmas.

Liquors—If constantly increasing sales are an indication then our regard for superior quality and purity in wines, whiskeys, etc., are appreciated. A complete stock of Old Rye, Bourbon and Mountain Whiskeys, Sherry, Port, Champagne, Brandy, Rum, etc. We can fill any demand.

A \$25,000 STOCK OF Victor Talking Machines

RECORDS AND ACCESSORIES

To select from, and one of the coziest and most attractive Victor parlors in which to listen to any record you wish to hear.

There's nothing that will give so much pleasure to as many people in a musical way as will a Victor, \$10 and up. Small monthly payments.

Our Holiday Stock of Small Musical Instruments

Violins, Banjos, Guitars, Mandolins, Horns, Drums, Tambourines, Music Boxes, etc., is complete enough to satisfy the choice of any one, and the prices will fit any purse.

SHEET MUSIC, popular and standard; Music Books, etc. Everything musical for everybody.

The Cable Company

J. G. CORLEY, Genl. Mgr.

213 East Broad Street

Large Numbers of Prospective Piano Purchasers Are Attending Our

Great Reorganization Sale

After January 1st, the business which is now conducted under the name of *The Cable Company* will be known as the *Cable Piano Company*, which, instead of being a branch house, will be a distinct corporation, recently organized under the laws of Virginia. We will begin the new business with a completely new stock of Pianos from the factories of *The Cable Company*, Chicago, and the *Mason & Hamlin Co.*, Boston.

It is to make room for this new stock that we have marked our present stock of new as well as used Pianos at greatly reduced prices. These are not shop-worn goods or damaged stock. You can, until January 1st, buy New Pianos at astonishingly low prices. You will never enjoy a more favorable opportunity to buy a New Piano—of course, the "used" Pianos are correspondingly priced at bargain figures.

CALL EARLY and look over our stock. This is Richmond's most timely sale of Pianos—DON'T MISS IT.

A SWEEPING REDUCTION IN PRICING OUR ENTIRE STOCK OF PIANOS.

A Message to Music Lovers

To you who have been denied the pleasure of playing your favorite compositions because you have had no time or opportunity for piano study—

And to you who, after a course of lessons and months of practice, find that you have mastered only a few selections—we say:

OUR INNER-PLAYER PIANOS place at your command practically the entire field of music. With an Inner-Player Piano you require NO LESSONS and but little practice to play any piece of music you like.

Investigate the Inner-Player Piano. Prove our statements. Examine every point. Try one of them and notice how easily you can play. Made in four styles, \$500, \$650, \$750, \$1,000.

Piano Purchasers, THIS WILL INTEREST YOU

Twenty-five per cent. reorganization discount will be given from regular prices on the celebrated CONOVER, CABLE, KINGSBURY, WELLINGTON, DE ROYEN and BECKENBURG Pianos and Chicago Cottage Organs.

Thirty-three and a third per cent. discount given on used and rented Pianos of the same makes.

Upright Pianos, taken in exchange on Inner Players, will be sold in this sale from \$75.00 up.

Square Pianos of good makes and good conditions, from \$25.00 up.

It is our purpose to close out the entire stock of Pianos and Organs, that the new organization may start business the first day of January with an entirely new stock of instruments, direct from our factories.

While the above are cash prices, accommodating terms may be arranged.

The Cable Company
J. G. CORLEY, Genl. Mgr.
213 East Broad Street

Xmas Goods Boxed Free **MAY'S** Xmas Goods Boxed Free

A Man Wants Something Useful and We'll Supply Him

There are gift suggestions all along the lines of Men's Wear handled here. Go through our store and you'll find value, variety and price attractive. We suggest these lines:

Boys' Knickerbocker Suits and Topcoats—We offer a 10% reduction on every Boys' Suit and Topcoat in the house. It's worth your while to take notice.

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| Bath Robes, \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00. | Fancy Waistcoats, \$2.00 to \$6.00. |
| Smoking Jackets, \$4.00, \$5.00, \$8.50. | Holiday Suspenders, single boxed, 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50. |
| Sweaters for men and boys, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$3.00. | Combination Sets, Suspenders, Garters and Arm Bands, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50. |
| White and Fancy Dress Shirts, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50. | Combination Sets, all colors, Suspenders and Ties, \$1.00. |
| Underwear for men, 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00. | Silk Mufflers, all kinds, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00. |
| Gloves for dress and warmth, 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50. | Silk Initial Mufflers, 50c. |
| Neckwear in all shapes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. (Boxed free.) | Silk and Opera Hats, \$6.00. |

Holiday Goods Boxed Free

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Write or Ask for our Latest Price-List.

For the Particular Shopper THE BEST TO EAT

The South's only modern Grocery, Delicatessen and Liquor Store offers you limitless varieties of rare, toothsome Holiday Luxuries and Necessities. Delicious things that mean so much to the housekeeper and gourmet.

All lines are conveniently and attractively displayed for immediate inspection—a most convenient, modern method for the hurried, careful purchaser.

The following suggestions, taken from our unprecedented stocks, are interesting:

NUTS—A complete assortment of the first quality only: Almonds, Walnuts, Filberts and Pecans, either separate or mixed; Chestnuts and Peanuts and all shelled varieties.

RAISINS—Best of Malaga and California, in small or large boxes or by the pound.

FIGS—Limitless styles and sizes of boxes, baskets, jars stuffed, pulled or layers, in quality to suit you.

DATES—The best offered for years. Large, full flavor and deliciously moist; stuffed in boxes, jars and plain; both Ford and Persian.

CRYSTALLIZED AND CONSERVED FRUITS—The offerings this season include one especially prepared and with the natural flavor of the fruit a little improved. All sizes of fancy wooden boxes, decorated and plain.

CANDIES—The Belle Meade sweets, a fine known to all lovers of the first quality of candies, assorted and various size packages.

FRUIT CAKE, PLEIN PUDDING—In addition to the well known brands, we offer various sizes of home-made, and of that firm, delicious quality that is attained only by the best makers.

MINCED MEATS—Our home-made is simply perfect; the first quality of ingredients are carefully compounded by an old-time housekeeper, who is scrupulously clean; sold in glass jars or in bulk.

A BASKET OF FRUIT is one of the most acceptable gifts; especially appropriate for the sick. Our assortments are enormous, carefully selected baskets of fruit, ranging in price from \$1.00 up.

FRUITS—Fine, luscious Florida Oranges, Grape Fruit, Malaga Grapes, in large bunches and beautifully tinted; Tangerines, Albemarle Pippins and Winesap Apples, etc.

BRANDED FRUITS—Of course, the best are made at home—the kind we offer in these varieties: Peaches, Pears, Cherries and Apples.

CANNED GOODS—All kinds of the best grade are here—the products of every country in the world.

LIQUORS—If constantly increasing sales are an indication then our regard for superior quality and purity in wines, whiskeys, etc., are appreciated. A complete stock of Old Rye, Bourbon and Mountain Whiskeys, Sherry, Port, Champagne, Brandy, Rum, etc. We can fill any demand.

Remember, we pay freight on out-of-town orders.

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